

Focus On County Government

Fall/Winter 2001 Volume 10, Issue 19

Executive Report...

Dear Friend:

During my tenure as County Executive I have worked hard to encourage cooperation between the County and our respective municipalities. No issue is more important than providing the highest level of public safety possible for everyone.

To that end, I am proposing Waukesha County form a new Department of Public Safety. Included in this new department is a countywide shared emergency dispatch center. This proposed dispatch operation would provide consistent, efficient, cost-effective dispatch services for all Waukesha County citizens.

Independent studies have shown that this operation can save taxpayers over *\$1 million* in operating costs every year. In addition, taxpayers would gain millions of dollars of savings by eliminating unnecessary future capital expenditures.

I am confident that by working together we will realize significant savings for taxpayers while providing a high quality public safety dispatch operation.



Waukesha County Executive
Daniel M. Finley



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5-Year Budget Trends...

Budget Year	General Purpose Property Tax Levy	Tax Rate/\$1000	Rate Change
2002	\$ 75,223,129	\$ 2.42	- 1.76%
2001	\$ 70,974,058	\$ 2.46	- 4.50%
2000	\$ 68,231,014	\$ 2.58	- 3.72%
1999	\$ 66,331,114	\$ 2.68	- 2.15%
1998	\$ 64,088,306	\$ 2.81	- 2.72%

Quest for Energy Efficiency...

The Parks and Land Use Department has partnered with Wisconsin Focus on Energy, a productive alliance of government agencies, utilities, the energy efficiency industry and the general public, to identify energy conservation opportunities at the Exposition Center, the Materials Recycling Facility, the ice arenas, and at five park buildings.

As the County continues its quest for energy efficiency, Wisconsin Focus on Energy will develop recommenda-

tions for our facilities such as replacing lighting or upgrading heating and air conditioning systems.

They will also estimate the cost of improvements and analyze the payback time given our present energy use.

County staff will conduct waste assessments that will support and improve current practices.

It's More Than Just A Park...

Retzer Nature Center is expanding. *Come Grow With Us!*

The Friends of Retzer Nature Center, a private support group for Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha, announced plans to raise \$300,000 for a new learning center, through the "Come Grow With Us" fundraising campaign.

The proposed center will be 5,000 sq. ft., and will provide increased space for exhibits, visitors and classes. Funds raised will help offset one-third of the County's project commitment, which is slated for the 2003 capital budget.

The campaign has received early monetary commitments totaling \$100,000. Waukesha State Bank gave \$30,000 and the Anthony and Andrea B. Bryant Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation gave \$15,000. Additional monies came from the Friends Board of Directors, area businesses, foundations, and individual contributions.

In addition to the learning center expansion, the County's

Parks System Division recently negotiated the purchase of the adjacent 68-acre Owen Williams' property.

The property abuts the current nature center lands and expands its boundary to the east. Its placement is key to connecting the acreage that is currently part of Retzer Nature Center.

For more information please call the center at (262) 896-8007 or write to Friends of Retzer Nature Center, W284 S1530 Road DT, Waukesha. 53188.



Coneflowers at Retzer Nature Center

Court Self-Help Center Launches...

Waukesha County's Family Court Self-Help Center is scheduled to open early 2002, in the Court House, Room 108, contingent on the completion of construction.

Services available will include public computer access, a customer service representative to answer general questions, an attorney roster, user-friendly forms and instructions, community resources, and useful tips on self-representation. These services will be provided at the Center and on the internet.

As the program grows, additional services and resources will be added. An example of this is a family legal clinic through

which the public will be able to receive limited legal advice from a volunteer attorney in reference to family matters.

Funding has been provided by Waukesha County, the State Justice Institute, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and the Wisconsin State Bar Association.

The program was spear-headed by Chief Judge Kathryn Foster and Waukesha County's Clerk of Circuit Courts Carolyn Evenson and will serve as a statewide model thanks to the professional support and input from many community partners who have played critical roles in its development.

County Executive Awards...

The Sixth Annual County Executive Awards Luncheon was presented by County Executive Finley and co-sponsored by Firstar and WISN 12, on October 2, at the Country Inn.

The award program recognizes organizations in the private, public and non-profit sectors that contribute to the continued success of the County and its citizens.

The 2001 County Executive Award winners are:

Waukesha Electric Systems
Business of the Year

Community Memorial Hospital
Non-Profit of the Year

Mukwonago Community Library
Government Agency of the Year

Nominated organizations are assessed by a panel of judges as to how they meet the needs of four stakeholders: customers, investors, employees, and the community at large.

The Business of the Year, and Government Agency of the Year receive beautiful awards. In addition to the award, the Non-Profit of the Year receives a \$5,000 grant from Firstar.

The event's keynote address, which stressed the impact of tourism on our community, was given by Bo Black, Executive Director of Milwaukee World Festivals, Inc. (Summerfest).

She has been recognized by numerous community organizations for her commitment to economic growth and development.



County Executive Finley and Kathy McBride of the Mukwonago Library at the Awards Luncheon.

Recycling Pays Off ...

The County gave rebates totaling \$500,000 to 25 municipal partners that participate in the recycling program in 2001.

Since 1991, the County has collected and processed more than 170,000 tons of newspaper, corrugated cardboard, magazines, office paper, glass, plastic bottles, and cans for recycling.

The County uses state funds received on behalf of the participating municipalities to provide program education and coordination and to process and market recycled materials at its Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), which opened in 1991 and was expanded in 1996.

No tax levy dollars have ever been used in the recycling program.

As a result of efficient program operation, higher market revenues for recycled materials in recent years, and continued grant funding, municipal rebates range from \$1,155 to \$123,208 as depicted in the following chart.

Municipal Recycling Dividend Distribution

Villages:

Big Bend	\$ 2,980
Chenequa	1,342
Dousman	2,467
Eagle	4,159
Elm Grove	33,485
Hartland	23,072
Lac La Belle	1,155
Merton	3,347
Nashotah	3,084
Oconomowoc Lake	1,422
Pewaukee	20,742
Wales	4,712

Towns:

Brookfield	20,106
Delafield	9,953
Lisbon	20,917
Merton	2,832
Oconomowoc	6,172
Summit	19,442
Waukesha	6,245

Cities:

Brookfield	83,488
Delafield	16,203
New Berlin	31,511
Oconomowoc	41,180
Pewaukee	16,776
Waukesha	123,208

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Glide Into New Year's...

Grab your ice skates and glide into the New Year with cool DJ tunes at Eble Ice Arena!

Location:

Eble Ice Arena
19700 West Bluemound Road
Brookfield, Wisconsin

Cost:

Adults: \$5.00 in advance/\$6.00 at the door
Family Pass: \$10.00 in advance
Children ages 5-15: \$2.00 in advance/\$3.00 at the door
Children under 5: FREE

Advance tickets are available for a discounted rate at any Milwaukee Firststar office beginning December 3. Family passes are also available for purchase in advance, which includes admission for two adults and up to six children.

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. *Limited skate rental available.*

This event is sponsored by Firststar and the
Waukesha County Parks and Land Use Department.

On The Web...

Visit the County on the web at

www.waukeshacounty.gov

Make searching for a job in government easy. View the list of available positions and simply click on the job application form, enter the fields electronically, and submit it on-line. Upon submittal, your application is sent to Human Resources for review.

Come see what's "In The News". By clicking the "In The News" icon, you will be transported to a database that features real time news releases.

Looking for other resources within Waukesha County? Try our links page. Visit school districts, local colleges, libraries, municipal government agencies, and much, much more!

As development continues, watch for more innovative ways for government to interact with you!